

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 /066 W

-----312330Z 111863 /73

R 311343Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3604

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L OUAGADOUGOU 1208

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, TO, NG, IV, DM, UV

SUBJ: ENTENTE SUMMIT

REF: OUAGADOUGOU 1164 (NOTAL)

1. CHIEFS OF STATE OF NIGER, TOGO AND IVORY COAST ARRIVED  
IN OUAGADOUGOU MORNING MARCH 30 FOR A TWO-DAY SUMMIT MEETING  
OF THE CONSEIL DE L'ENTENTE. PRESIDENT KEREKOU OF BENIN  
DID NOT SHOW UP ALTHOUGH, UNTIL LAST MINUTE, HE WAS EXPECTED  
TO ARRIVE WITH PRESIDENT KOUNTCHE OF NIGER. NO EXPLANATION  
WAS GIVEN FOR KEREKOU'S ABSENCE.

2. IN STATEMENT TO PRESS AND RADIO AT AIRPORT, PRESIDENT  
EYADEMA OF TOGO, WHO IS CURRENTLY PRESIDENT OF CONSEIL DE  
L'ENTENTE, DECLARED THAT SUMMIT MEETING WOULD DEAL WITH  
"ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND POLITICAL PROBLEMS FACING  
THE FOUR STATE" AND WOULD ALSO "REVIEW AFRICAN AND WORLD  
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PROBLEMS".

3. STANDING IN OPEN LIMOUSINES, THE FOUR CHIEFS  
OF STATE DROVE FROM AIRPORT TO PRESIDENTIAL PALACE.  
GOUV HAS DECLARED A HOLIDAY FOR THIS OCCASION AND THE  
PRESIDENTIAL CAVALCADE PROCEEDED THROUGH STREETS  
DECORATED WITH FLAGS OF THE FOUR NATIONS AND LINED WITH

THOUSANDS OF CHEERING PEOPLE. THE STATEMENT BY THE LOCAL RADIO THAT THERE WERE 200,000 PEOPLE AT THE AIRPORT AND ALONG THE ROAD MAY HAVE BEEN EXAGGERATED BUT THERE WAS CERTAINLY A GOOD TURN OUT AND THE POPULATION OF OUAGADOUGOU APPEARED DETERMINED TO GIVE AN ENTHUSIASTIC RECEPTION TO THE THREE VISITING PRESIDENTS.

4. COMMENT: FRENCH AMBASSADOR BLANC, WHO IS USUALLY WELL INFORMED ON SUCH MATTERS, CLAIMS THAT HE DOES NOT KNOW WHY SUMMIT MEETING IS TAKING PLACE AT THIS TIME ON SUCH SHORT NOTICE AND WHY KEREKOU DID NOT ATTEND. ONE THEORY IS THAT KEREKOU WANTED TO HAVE MEETING IN COTONOU AND THAT THE OTHER PRESIDENTS REFUSED. WE DO KNOW THAT VOLTAN FOREIGN MINISTER KARGOUGOU VISITED COTONOU LAST WEEK BUT NOTHING HAS BEEN SAID ABOUT PURPOSE OF THIS VISIT. ANOTHER THEORY IS THAT THE FOUR CHIEFS OF STATE WILL DISCUSS PROBLEMS OF COMMON DEFENSE AND DO NOT WANT BENIN TO PARTICIPATE IN THESE DISCUSSIONS. WE HAVE NOTED THAT HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY IS ACCOMPANIED NOT ONLY BY HIS FOREIGN MINISTER BUT ALSO BY HIS MINISTER OF DEFENSE AND BY THE CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE IVOIRIAN ARMED FORCES.  
GRAHAM

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** SUMMIT MEETINGS, REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, NEWS MEDIA COMMENTS  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Reference:** 77 OUAGADOUGOU 1164  
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**TAGS:** PFOR, TO, NG, IV, DM, UV  
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**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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